

Camp Near Cedar Creek
Virginia, Nov. 1st 1864

Dear Mother,

I received your very kind letter of the 26th this morning and was very glad to hear from you, and also to hear from Harrison for I have not heard from him before since he was wounded.

I write you the next day after the fight of the 19th, our Regt. lost a great many, so that it is reduced to very small numbers, there is only about 140 of us left.

Our company was very lucky ~~the~~ as we were protected by a stonewall through the hardest of the fight, but we came very near being captured every one of us, we held our position *untill* the *Jonnies* got us nearly surrounded, and we had to fall back, leaving all of our killed & wounded in their hands, but we made him pay dear for it before night. We came back that night to where our Regt. fought them in the morning we found ~~18 killed~~ eighteen dead and some *some* wounded so bad that they could not get off that hard land there all day, the Rebs stripped the clothes off from our dead and wounded. Some of them were left *almost* naked. We lay here in our old camp that we occupied before the battle, we have not done any thing since then but drill a little once in a while. I don't think the Johnnies will trouble us any more this fall.

We have not heard any thing from them since the fight, they have not got any Infantry this side of Harrisonburg, nothing but some cavalry.

The *wether* is getting to be quite cold, it has rained for two days which makes it quite *disagreeable*. We got our overcoats and blankets that we left in New Orleans last spring so that we have a plenty of clothes, more than we will want to carry if we have to march. We got paid off yesterday. I got only two months pay, there was four due, well we shall get paid again in a few days.

Give my love to all.

From your affect. Son,

John F. Brand